

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02729 01 OF 02 071206Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11

OIC-02 EB-08 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SY-05 MCT-01

PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /113 W

-----038551 071224Z /46

R 071104Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 889

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AXEMBASSY KABUL 99

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AXEMBASSY TEHRAN 4316

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AXEXBASSY MUSCAT 1443

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 02729 01 OF 02 071206Z

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KUWAIT 2729

MONTREAL FOR USREP TO ICAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EAIR

SUBJECT: KUWAIT ACCESSUBN TO ANTI-HIJACKING CONVENTIONS

REF: STATE 90969

1. I CALLED ON CROWN PRINCE/PRIMEMINISTER SHAIKH SA'AD AL-ABDULLA ON MAY 6 AT MY REQUEST. I HAD NOT MADE A PROPER CALL ON HIM SINCE HIS ELEVATION TO HIS NEW POSITION AND WANTED TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE A NUMBER OF MATTERS* PRINCIPAL AMONG WHICH WAS QUESTION OF KUWAITI ACCESSION TO THE ANTI-HIJACKING CONVENTIONS.

2. I PREFACED MY REMARKS ON THIS SUBJECT BY NOTING THAT SHAIKH SA'AD WAS KUWAIT'S LEADING EXPERT ON HIJACKING, HAVING HANDLED ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT WHILE MINISTER OF INTERIOR THREE HIJACKING INCIDENTS INVOLVING KUWAIT. I DREW HIS ATTENTION TO THE THREE HIJACKING CONVENTIONS AND TO THE FACT THAT KUWAIT HAD ONLY SIGNED THE HAGUE CONVENTION SO FAR. SHAIKH SA'AD WAS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT KUWAIT HAD SIGNED ONE CONVENTION BUT WAS UNCLEAR AS TO WHICH ONE AND TO THE STATUS OF THE OTHERS. I TOLD HIM IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS PREPARED TO RECOMMEND THE SIGNING AND RATIFICATION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 02729 01 OF 02 071206Z

THREE CONVENTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, BUT IT WAS AWAITING THE RESOLUTION OF CERTAIN TECHNICALITIES INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS.

3. CONTINUING MY PRESENTATION, I POINTED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF ALL STATES RATIFYING THESE CONVENTIONS IN ORDER TO HELP REDUCE ACTS OF UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION. I MADE REFERENCE TO THE UNGA RESOLUTION 32/8 AND TO THE FACT THAT THE US, UK AND FRANCE WERE ASKED BY OTHER SIGNATORIES TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH KUWAIT AND SEVERAL OTHER NATIONS. I NOTED THAT THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAD MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER-SECRETARY RASHID AW-RASHID ON MAY 2 ON THIS SUBJECT. I OBSERVED THAT, WHILE INITIALLY THERE HAD BEEN RELUCTANCE TO SIGN THESE CONVENTIONS BECAUSE OF THE FEELING THAT THEY WERE ANTI-PALESTINIAN IN NATURE, I BELIEVED THAT THIS WAS NO LONGER A PROBLEM SINCE IT WAS CLEAR THAT THESE CONVENTIONS HAD A WIDER OBJECTIVE. IN FACT, PLO LEADER YASSER ARAFAT HAD HIMSELF, ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, CONDEMNED HIJACKING. I ALSO REMINDED SHAIKH SA'AD THAT KUWAIT'S MAJOR NEIGHBORS, IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA, HAD BOTH SIGNED AND RATIFIED ALL THREE CONVENTIONS AND THOUGHT THAT

THERE SHOULD BE NO REASON WHY KUWAIT COULD NOT ALSO DO SO.
IT WAS MY IMPRESSION THAT THE OTHER GULF STATES, WHICH HAD
NEITHER SIGNED NOR RATIFIED THESE CONVENTIONS, WERE
PROBABLY WAITING TO SEE WHAT KUWAIT WOULD DO IN THIS
RESPECT.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ABOUT
THE MATTER, BUT DEMONSTRATED INTEREST DURING MY
PRESENTATION. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS MATTER
WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER THE FOLLOWING DAY (ON WHICH THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING WAS ALSO SCHEDULED TO TAKE
PLACE). HOPEFULLY THIS SUBJECT WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE
COUNCIL'S DELIBERATIONS.

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PAGE 04 KUWAIT 02729 01 OF 02 071206Z

5. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR INFORMED US THAT UNDERSECRETARY
RASHID AL-RASHID HAD INDICATED GOK SUPPORT FOR THE AIM OF

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02729 02 OF 02 071215Z
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 02729 02 OF 02 071215Z

AMCONSUL MONTREAL
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KUWAIT 2729

MONTREAL FOR USREP TO ICAO

THESE CONVENTIONS, BUT NOTED THE CONNECTION WITH THE PALESTINIANS MENTIONED ABOVE. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT THESE CONVENTIONS WERE DIRECTED AGAINST LAWLESSNESS FROM ANY QUARTER AND HAD NO POLITICAL MOTIVATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT COUNTRIES LIKE KUWAIT, WHICH TOOK THEIR INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY, COULD GIVE A LEAD TO OTHERS.

6. THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THIS MATTER AND WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF ANY PROGRESS MADE AS THE RESULT OF REPRESENTATIONS TO OTHER COUNTRIES, SO THAT THESE EXAMPLES COULD BE USED AS NECESSARY TO ENCOURAGE KUWAIT ACTION IN THIS RESPECT.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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